

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

Alumni Center, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana
September 26, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

Jeanne Mirro, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Mirro, Karen Ellerbrook, Jonathan Ford, Carol Trexler, Sandra Clark, Pam Hicks, Linda Levell, Judy Hess, Suzanne Rentschler, Earl Williams, Richard Stifel

Members absent: Gilberto Cárdenas, Irene Smith-King, Kelly Schreckengast, Ron Stratten

IAC Staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Bobbie Garver, Susan Britsch, Kristina Davis, Rex Van Zant

Guests: Jan Shupert-Arick (RAP Chair), Jo Ann Gora (President, Ball State University), Michael Kos (State Budget Agency)

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Ms. Mirro convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m., welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She remarked on the considerable “cultural footprint” of the Indiana Arts Commission, which was evident the previous evening at the 2009 Governor’s Arts Awards.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Ms. Clark moved to adopt the consent agenda. Mr. Stifel seconded. Motion passed.

3. **Chair’s Report**

A. 1. Ms. Mirro welcomed newly-appointed commissioners Carol Trexler (Indianapolis), Linda Levell (Vincennes) and Jonathan Ford (Terre Haute).
2. Ms. Mirro made remarks emphasizing the importance of attendance and participation in the IAC standing committees as well as full commission meetings.
3. Governor’s office issues. Ms. Mirro reported that there are now two vacancies on the Commission, those being the seats of Sandi Clark and Ron Stratten. Mr. Ricci presented handouts (attached) showing names of potential commissioners which were forwarded to the Governor’s office in spring and summer 2009. Ms. Mirro asked that all commissioners continue to identify individuals who would be viable candidates for the office of commissioner; she also asked that nomination forms be provided at every commission meeting.

B. Appeals of Indianapolis Opera and Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra. Ms. Mirro reported that these two organizations had filed written appeals for reconsideration after they were not selected for funding in the Majors grant category. The Program Evaluation committee reviewed the appeals during its last meeting and recommended appropriate action to the Executive Committee, which in turn endorsed the recommendations. A vote by the full commission will occur during the Program Evaluation Committee report.

C. New policy regarding the Individual Artist Grant Category. Ms. Mirro reported that the Program Evaluation Committee and the Executive Committee have endorsed a set of changes to this granting category, and that the full commission will vote on the changes during the Program Evaluation Committee report.

D. Regional Arts Partnership status issues. Ms. Mirro reminded the commission that the Arts Council of Southern Indiana (New Albany) and the Bloomington Area Arts Council have been suspended indefinitely from the Regional Arts Partnership, as a result of independent reviews of their organizations and a vote by the full commission at the June meeting. Mr. Ricci stated that IAC has taken over the administration of grants previously administered by the two suspended organizations. The Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana (Evansville) and Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne will undergo independent reviews in the coming months; reviewers will include Tetia Lee from Tippecanoe Arts Federation, John Cain from South Shore Arts, Don Koverman from Purdue University, and a representative from 1st Source Bank (other reviewers to be determined). Ms. Mirro emphasized the importance of applying the same criteria to all independent reviews of Regional Arts Partners, and stressed the importance of the Regional Partners system to the Arts Commission, as well as the IAC commitment to the Regional Arts Partner system.

4. Executive Director's Report.

A. Year-end financials. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) showing that the Arts Commission ended FY2009 under budget. Ms. Clark offered thanks to Mr. Ricci and Ms. Anderson for their efforts in keeping under budget.

B. Year-to-date financial activity. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) showing FY2010 financial activity through July 31, 2009.

C. Capacity-building efforts with Arts Midwest. Mr. Ricci reported on collaborative efforts with Arts Midwest, of which IAC is a member. Headquartered in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest has engaged the services of a not-for-profit organization in Minneapolis as a partner in fund-raising.

D. Arts Education Update. Ms. Britsch recounted the Education Leadership Institute, held in Chicago last June, and attended by Ms. Britsch and Mr. Ricci among the Indiana contingent. Some of the strategies coming from the Institute included working with the Indiana Coalition for the Arts for arts education advocacy, collection of data on the impact of arts education, and developing a pilot project for arts education in a South Bend secondary school. Ms. Britsch also reported on the national Poetry Out Loud competition, for which she is the Indiana coordinator. Numbers of participants have grown in Indiana, but she would like to see still larger numbers.

E. Cultural Districts update. Ms. Davis presented a handout (attached) showing the seven Indiana communities which have applied for Cultural District designation. The panel will meet on October 1st to review applications, after which site visits will be scheduled for those districts recommended for designation. The final panel recommendations will be brought before

the Program Evaluation Committee at their next meeting, and before the full commission at the December meeting.

F. Indiana Artisan Program update. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) prepared by Indiana Artisan Program director Eric Freeman. Mr. Ricci congratulated Mr. Freeman for his work in making the Artisan program a great success.

G. Awards ceremonies and services for Regions 8 and 12. Mr. Ricci reminded the commission that IAC has taken over the administration of regional grants from the Bloomington Area Arts Council (Region 8) and the Arts Council of Southern Indiana (Region 12). Award ceremonies will be held on September 30 for Region 8 and on October 1st for Region 12.

H. Regional Arts Partners retreat plans. Mr. Ricci reported that plans are under way for the next Regional Arts Partners retreat, scheduled to be held on February 3-4, 2010 in the Columbus area.

I. Acceptance of NEA Accessibility Leadership Award. Mr. Ricci reported that IAC has been awarded \$30,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts in a national competition. He praised IAC Community Development Manager/Accessibility Coordinator Kristina Davis for writing the successful grant proposal. She and Mr. Ricci have been invited to attend the award ceremony in New York City in January to accept the award.

5. Committee Reports.

A. Committee on the Future.

1. COF chair Mr. Stifel reported on the strategic planning process, saying that strategic planning is a requirement of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as a necessary tool for any successful organization. He reviewed the current timeline (handout attached), showing the final strategic plan to be in place during the winter of 2010/2011. Mr. Stifel will lead the formation of a Strategic Planning Steering Committee and asked the commission to consider nominations for committee membership. Ronald Stratten, former IAC chair, has offered his services as facilitator for the strategic planning process. Over the coming winter, information will be gathered via surveys and focus groups, leading to the writing of a "white paper" outlining the focus of the new strategic plan. Mr. Stifel will continue to provide updates on the strategic planning process at subsequent quarterly commission meetings.

2. Mr. Stifel also presented a review report from the State Board of Accounts (attached) which reviewed IAC financial activities for the period from April 1, 2006 through February 20, 2008, and stated that IAC was in compliance with applicable state laws and regulations.

B. Program Evaluation Committee.

1. PEC chair Earl Williams presented the PEC report handout (attached) covering the most recent meeting, at which the appeals of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and the Indianapolis Opera (copies attached) were considered. Both organizations had applied for funding in the Majors category, and both competed unsuccessfully in the judgment of the review panel, failing to attain scores which would have placed them in the top 13-scoring applications.. The PEC voted to recommend that both appeals be denied; the Executive Committee upheld the

recommendations in its subsequent meeting. Mr. Williams moved that the full commission accept the recommendation of the Program Evaluation Committee and the Executive Committee to disallow the appeals of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and the Indianapolis Opera Company. Ms. Clark seconded. Ms. Clark remarked that the PEC was fully satisfied with the qualifications of the Majors panelists, and that the written appeals of both organizations had been fully considered. Motion passed. Mr. Ricci remarked that he would recommend changes in the Majors category, including a change of name for the category to correct public perception; he would also recommend a change away from allowing applicants to specify the amount of the request, but to require that a budget be submitted in lieu of a request for a specific amount of funding. Ms. Hess added her support to the consideration of such changes, remarking that organizations should not be entering the grant application process with misconceptions about the process or the outcome. Mr. Stifel asked if any lessons for IAC were learned from these appeals. Mr. Ricci replied that IAC can and should clarify the application criteria and expectations in the field. Ms. Garver remarked about the impact of the current economic downturn on arts organizations, and Mr. Williams added that arts organizations should, of necessity, seek funding beyond public monies.

2. Ms. Davis reviewed proposed changes in the Individual Artist Program Guidelines/Application (handout attached). The proposed changes were recommended for approval by the Program Evaluation Committee in its last meeting, and the recommendation was endorsed by the Executive Committee in its last meeting. In summary, the changes are: a) bi-annual split of disciplines with an increase in the number of grants in each discipline; b) merge Folk Arts into other disciplines; c) merge Multi-Arts into other disciplines; d) inclusion of Artist Access Program discipline, funded by the Accessibility Leadership award from NEA, for one year; e) inclusion of a new criteria of Public Benefit in the grant application, to be assigned a point value for scoring purposes; f) change the final report deadline from May 31 to May 20. Ms. Rentschler moved to adopt the changes to the Individual Arts Program, as outlined in Ms. Davis' handout. Ms. Hess seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Stifel requested that information such as the IAP handout be made available to the full commission prior to the date of the commission meeting, for the benefit of those commissioners who are not on the committee which originally reviewed the information. Mr. Williams added that, for all grant categories, the PEC is considering changes which will streamline the application process.

3. Ms. Britsch reviewed proposed changes to the Arts in Education (AIE) granting program, which were recommended for approval by the Program Evaluation Committee at its last meeting (handout attached). In summary, the changes are: a) a reduction in the number of AIE grants as well as the total amount of available funding; b) a decrease in the maximum amount allowable per school; c) adding an Implementation Phase to the already in-place Planning Phase; d) applicants required to submit a state Vendor Form along with application; e) strengthen verbiage in guidelines and application; move Public Benefit criteria from Long Term Commitment to Impact on Curriculum Needs and Community. Mr. Williams moved to adopt the recommended changes to the Arts in Education granting program. Ms. Hicks seconded. Motion passed.

Ms. Mirro declared a break in the meeting at 10:50 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. Ms. Mirro introduced Jo Ann Gora, president of Ball State University, who gave a brief presentation on the commitment of BSU to the arts and the impact on the Muncie community as well as the state-wide and nation-wide impact. Her presentation was well received by the commission, and Ms. Mirro thanked her

for her presentation, and for making the Alumni Center available to the Arts Commission for its quarterly meeting.

C. Advocacy and Awareness Committee.

1. Chair Karen Ellerbrook presented the Advocacy & Awareness Committee report (attached). She then reviewed the Governor's Arts Awards which were presented the previous evening at Cornerstone Center for the Arts in Muncie. She extended congratulations to Monica Peterson of the Ball State University staff, who served as co-chair of the host city committee. Mr. Ricci remarked that there have now been two GAA programs in towns outside of Indianapolis which have been very successful, and that if it is the desire of IAC to "take the show on the road" again in 2011, planning needs to begin soon.

2. Ms. Ellerbrook reminded everyone that, while the state legislature is between sessions, advocacy efforts must continue throughout the winter, and encouraged everyone to keep in touch with their local legislators via letters and email. The annual Advocacy Day at the Statehouse is scheduled for January 26th in Indianapolis.

D. Cultural Trust Administrative Board. In the absence of CTAB chair Kelly Schreckengast, Ms. Mirro presented the Cultural Trust Administrative Board report (attached). The fund balance as of July 31, 2009 was \$1,772,118.65. IAC will withdraw \$50,000 during FY2010 to fund Arts in Education grants. Mr. Van Zant explained state-mandated changes in the design of the Arts Trust license plate.

6. Regional Arts Partners Update. RAP chair Jan Shupert-Arick from Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne reported on the most recent meeting of the Partners. Ongoing efforts include securing access to health insurance for individual artists state-wide, and coping with the economic downturn. She emphasized that the Partners are committed to the collaboration with the Arts Commission and "nervousness" over the recent independent reviews of two of the partner organizations has eased somewhat with the knowledge that IAC is truly trying to provide assistance and not to eliminate any particular partner or to cease the Regional Arts Partner system of distribution of public funding.

7. Old Business. Ms. Mirro asked that commissioners familiarize themselves with the recent report on Indiana nonprofit arts and culture organizations provided by the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at Indiana University (summary attached). The information contained in this report will help provide a foundation for IAC strategic planning.

8. New Business.

A. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) showing proposed meeting dates for IAC standing committees and quarterly business meetings through September 2010.

B. Mr. Ricci reported that the Fort Wayne Ballet, Inc., has requested a change in its application for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (handout attached). The original application was approved for funding in the amount of \$21,300 to support salary and benefits for a full-time position. The change which is being requested is to divide the funds to support two part-time positions instead of one full-time position. Ms. Hicks

moved to approve the change in the ARRA grant for the Fort Wayne Ballet, Inc. Ms. Clark seconded. Motion passed.

C. Mr. Ricci reported that Cardinal Stage Company has submitted a written appeal of its grant award in the AOSII category, a category which had been previously administered by the Bloomington Area Arts Council as the Region 8 Arts Partner. Since BAAC has been suspended as a RAP and the Arts Commission has taken over administration of the Region 8 grants, the appeal for reconsideration must be taken up by the IAC. During its June quarterly business meeting, the Arts Commission granted authority to the IAC staff to determine grant amounts for Region 8. Mr. Ricci explained that Cardinal Stage Company had applied in the AOSII category for FY 2010, which provides a higher level of funding than Cardinal Stage Company had applied for in previous years; Cardinal Stage Company was disappointed to learn that they had not been granted the full amount of their request in the new category, despite having scored well in the paneling process. Mr. Ricci explained that the amount of funding awarded to Cardinal State Company (\$4,000) was on a par with the amount awarded in previous years in the AOSI category. Mr. Stifel moved to disallow the appeal for reconsideration from the Cardinal Stage Company. Ms. Hicks seconded. Motion passed with Ms. Clark abstaining.

9. Closing Comments. Ms. Mirro thanked the entire IAC staff for its work in all areas of administration, but singled out Rex Van Zant, Laura Frank, and intern Lydia Zacharias for praise as a result of their efforts in making the 2009 Governor's Arts Awards not just a reality but a resounding success. She reminded everyone of the need for a continuing stream of nominees for commission vacancies, and once again emphasized the importance of the work of the commission in reaching the entirety of the state with arts advocacy and funding for local projects. She expressed her excitement for FY2010 and again welcomed new commissioners Carol Trexler, Linda Levell and Jon Ford.

10. Adjourn. Mr. Stifel moved to adjourn. Ms. Ellerbrook seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.